

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF ORMSKIRK.



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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

THE YEAR - 1943.

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JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health.



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# Annual Report for 1943.

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ORMSKIRK,

NOVEMBER, 1944.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ormskirk Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1943.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

*Area*—15,608 acres, mainly flat or undulating.

*Population*—At the request of the Ministry of Health, on the grounds of national security, this information is withheld.

*Number of Inhabited Houses*.—At the end of 1943 the number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books, was 5,440.

The Rateable Value at the end of the year was £113,434, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £464.

*Chief Industries*—A brass foundry, 2 breweries, 1 ironfoundry, 2 timber yards, 1 printing and bookbinding works, 1 flour mill, 1 oatmeal mill, 3 brickworks, 2 cake manufacturers, 1 wooden handle works, 1 neck-ware factory, 1 Sausage Factory, 1 Fertiliser works.

The main industry of the district is Agriculture.



## BIRTHS AND DEATHS DURING 1943.

The following figures are supplied by the Registrar General :—

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate .....	310	155	155
Illegitimate .....	17	8	9
Total .....	327	163	164

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Still births Legitimate .....	10	5	5
Illegitimate .... ..	2	2	—
	12	7	5

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Deaths .....	236	110	126

Details of the Deaths are as follows :—

CAUSES.	M.	F.
Whooping Cough .....	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	4	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	1	—
Syphilitic diseases .....	1	—
Influenza .....	5	7
Cancer (all sites) .....	15	22
Diabetes .....	—	5
Intro-cranial Vascular Lesions .....	6	6
Heart Disease .....	26	25
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	2	4
Bronchitis .....	7	4
Pneumonia .....	9	5
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	—	2
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum .....	2	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) .....	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases .....	2	4
Nephritis .....	2	1
Premature Birth .....	1	4
Other Congenital Causes .....	1	6
Suicide .....	—	1
Road Traffic accidents .....	1	2
Other Violent causes .....	4	3
All other causes .....	20	22
Total,	110	126



SECTION B.  
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There have not been any changes during the year. All specimens and samples are sent to the Liverpool City Laboratory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance services are adequate. A motor ambulance is hired from the West Lancashire R.D.C. for infectious cases. Since my last report an ambulance has been presented to the Council by the people of Ormskirk, and this, together with the General Hospital and P.A.C. ambulances, are used for non-infectious cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have not been any changes in this service during the year.

SECTION C.  
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Following the successful boring and test pumping in No. 3 Well at Dark Lane Waterworks, a new pumping station has been erected. The plant installed is a Vertical Spindle Electric Borehole Pump of 80 B.H.P., and with a capacity of 28,000 gallons per hour. The water from this source is highly satisfactory.

A considerable amount of alterations and additions to the pumping main were carried out, and 1.1 miles of new 4" distribution main was laid.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Owing to the increased flow at the New Lane Disposal Work it has been necessary to instal new Electric Pumping Plant, construct a 60 ft. diameter percolating filter and carry out other modifications.

The analysis of the samples of effluent taken at the Disposal Works were generally satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1943.

Number of middens, 734. Number of closets attached to these middens, 766.

Number of pail closets, 65. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens), 147.

Number of fresh water closets, 4,531. Number of movable ashbins for refuse, 3,567.

Number of waste water closets, nil.

CONVERSIONS.

	During five years	
	During 1943.	1938—1942.
No. of privy closets—To fresh w.c.s	0	22
To waste w.c.s	0	0
To pails, etc.	0	0
No. of pail closets—  To fresh w.c.s	0	0
To waste w.c.s	0	0
No. of waste w.c.s to fresh w.c.s	0	30
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles .....	0	38

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Household and shop refuse is removed by the Council's own carts and motor vehicles, and is disposed of either by tipping or incineration at the refuse destructor.

It will be necessary to procure new tipping sites in the Ornskirk area during the coming year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Premises visited :—	
Houses .....	210
Lodging Houses .....	1
Bakehouses .....	18
Factories and Workshops ..	85
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	54
Slaughter Houses ...	1
Shops.....	6
Offices .....	3

Number of defects or nuisances discovered, 162.

Number abated, 157.

Number of notices served : Informal 154, Statutory 9.

No legal proceedings were taken.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In accordance with the Ministry of Home Security, circulars No. 139 1940 and No. 211 1940, which requested local authorities to arrange with industrial undertakings to increase the amount of smoke emitted from their furnaces, no observations were made until the end of September, when the circulars were cancelled.

Since then all the chimneys of industrial undertakings in the district have been kept under observation, but no nuisance of a serious nature was discovered.

## SHOPS.

During the year six shops were inspected under the Shops Act, 1934, and these were all found to be satisfactory.

## OFFICES.

Three offices were inspected and each found to be satisfactory.

## CAMPING SITES.

Four school camps at farms in the district were visited and sanitary conditions and water supply in each camp were found to be satisfactory.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two privately owned swimming baths in the district, but these are not open to the public.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Twenty-five houses were fumigated for the eradication of bed bugs. In twenty-three cases, where the infestation was only slight Thermatox fumigators were used, but in the other two cases it was found necessary to use Hydrogen Cyanide.

## SCHOOLS.

All the schools in the district were visited during the year. With one exception all the elementary schools are old, but their sanitary condition is fairly satisfactory.

It was not found necessary to advise the closure of any school owing to infectious disease.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

The general standard of housing in the district is good. There are still many of the older type houses, but apart from slight dampness these are in a reasonable state of repair.

Most of the overcrowding has been caused by families from bombed areas and Servicemen's families who have found accommodation in the district.

With regard to the sufficiency of supply of houses, there is definitely a shortage of houses in the district at the present time, but accurate figures as to the extent are not available.

#### (a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately	under (b)	Nil
(i) By the Local Authority .....	.....	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities .....	.....	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons .....	.....	Nil
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(i) By the Local Authority .....	.....	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons .....	.....	Nil

#### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	210
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	525
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	148



2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	143
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year—</i>	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	148
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners .....	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	Nil
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	Nil
D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—All dairies, cowsheds and milkshops were visited during the year, and their general condition proved to be good. In a few cases, limewashing was found to be overdue.

Thirty-four samples of milk were taken for examination for B. Coli and the Methylene Blue test. Eighteen samples proved to be satisfactory and sixteen unsatisfactory.

All the dealers from whom the unsatisfactory samples were taken were notified and their premises inspected, and where necessary advice was given as to how the quality of the milk could be improved.

Sixteen samples were taken for examination for Tubercle Bacilli. Fourteen samples proved to be negative and two positive. Notification of these two cases was forwarded to the County Council.

At the request of the Lancashire County Council, eight samples of milk were taken from schools in the district for examination for Tubercle Bacilli. Six samples proved to be negative and two positive.

One bottling licence, three supplementary licences and two dealers' licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

(b) INSPECTION OF MEAT.—During the year 682 pigs were inspected and the percentage of the number inspected which were affected with Tuberculosis was 3.8 per cent.

The percentage of the number inspected which were affected with disease other than tuberculosis was 1.2 per cent.

The weight of tuberculous meat condemned was 2 cwts. 0 qrs. 7 lbs., and other diseased or unsound meat was 1 cwt. 0 qrs. 17 lbs.

Where possible, all condemned meat was sent to firms for reprocessing.

In addition to the above 7 cwts. 1 qr. of canned foodstuffs, were condemned, also  $40\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. bacon,  $9\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. cheese, 69 lbs. flour, and 32 lbs. of sweets.

(c) ADULTERATION.—The section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which deals with this subject, is administered by the Lancashire County Council, and I am indebted to Dr. Hall, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following information :—

#### SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1943.

Milk .....	6
Sago .....	1
Jam .....	1
Curry Powder .....	1
Seidlitz Powder .....	1
Confectionery .....	1
Calomel Tablets .....	1
Cocoa.....	1

In one case a milk producer was prosecuted when costs amounting to £4 17s. 4d. were allowed.

### SECTION F.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The only feature worthy of note was the large number of cases of Measles. These, however, were all of a mild type, and there were no deaths.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia, and a decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever and Erysipelas.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever or Pneumonia.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is still being carried out and treatment is given at the Isolation Hospital, school and child welfare clinics, first aid posts, and all schools in the outlying parts of the area.

The following are the numbers of children who were immunised during the year.

School Children .....	199
Pre-school Children .....	164



PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL  
EXAMINATIONS.

The following specimens were examined during 1943 :—

Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130
Enteric Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14

DISINFECTION.

Number of rooms disinfected	.....	140
Number of articles disinfected	.....	1,504

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1943.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.										Total Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	89			2	7	9	45	15	2	6	2		37	
Diphtheria .. .. .	35	2	2	3	3	3	7	1	4	9	1		35	
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) .. .. .	1							1					1	
Measles .. .. .	279	7	24	24	30	35	133	18	3	4		1	13	
Whooping Cough .. .. .	11	1	2	2	2	1	3							
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	46	3	1	2		1	6	3		6	3	10	14	
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1									1			1	
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .	1											1		
Erysipelas .. .. .	2						1					1		1
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. .. .	1	1												
TOTALS .. .. .	466	14	29	33	42	49	195	38	9	26	6	13	89	1

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.											
0—	...	...	...								
1—	...	...	...			3	1				
5—	...	...	...			1					
10—	...	...	..		1						
15—	...	...	...								
20—	...	...	..	2	2	1		1			
25—	...	...	..	5	1			2			
35—	..			2	2			1			1
45—	...	...	.	1	1					1	
55—	...	...	..	2	1				1		
65 and upwards	...		.								
Totals ... ..				12	8	5	1	4	1	1	1
				20		6		5		2	

The services of the County Tuberculosis Officer were found valuable and were much appreciated. In practically all cases notification was prompt.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.







